



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Hartigan, President
Suzanne Whyte, Vice President
Catherine Atkin, Board Member
Nancy Lewis, Board Member
Gail Wetzork, Board Member

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director
Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

President Hartigan started the meeting by welcoming new Board Member Nancy Lewis, who gave her background and also mentioned being a previous member of the Library Board for 9 years. The other Library Board Members provided their background information and also welcomed Member Lewis.

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so accepted or approved on the Consent Calendar.

- A. *Report from the Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Month of October 2010. Accepted.
- B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of September 8, 2010. Approved.
- C. *Library Services Report for the Month of August 2010. Accepted.
- D. *Financial Report Reflecting FY10 Expenditures by Fund for September 2010. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for Ratification for the Month of September 2010. Approved.

President Hartigan said he understood Finance's explanation of why payroll dollars were out-of-whack the previous month when it appeared that expenditures almost tripled from July to August. There were no other comments, so Hartigan asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Wetzork so moved; Member Atkin seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

There were no public comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood Library Improvement Project (G. Wetzork)

Director Chisaki told the board they would be getting invitations to the West End branch grand re-opening soon; President Hartigan offered to say a few words at the ceremony. Chisaki showed pictures of the West End furniture and indicated that the collection and IT equipment were almost all in place. Chisaki mentioned that Owen Smith's artwork was currently hanging in the Stafford Rooms, and that he would be doing two pieces for the West End. Chisaki asked the board how they would feel about using the Library's custodian, Dennis McDaniels, to do the landscaping piece. McDaniels owns his own landscaping business and would be able to do the work for about \$5,000-\$8,000 which would be significantly less than if this project were to go out to bid. Member Wetzork indicated he would like to see a plan first; Member Whyte encouraged Chisaki to make sure that it would be acceptable for McDaniels to do the work, as he is a City employee. President Hartigan said the City Council and the Board would really like to see some new landscaping, so urged Chisaki to go ahead and check into the viability of the plan with the appropriate parties.

Director Chisaki went on to say that the Bay Farm Island branch renovations had started. She said the building was almost cleared and showed pictures of the work in progress. The Interim City Manager will provide some money from her discretionary fund so the Recreation & Park side of the building can be spiffed up as well. Member Wetzork believed that Recreation should be able to supply some money towards this, and offered his assistance to Chisaki if she needed it in talking with their Director, Dale Lillard.

President Hartigan had been looking at the expenses to date on the branch project and said that the spreadsheet Project Manager Laurie Kozisek had provided didn't really make sense. There was no way to tell if the dollars had been spent on the West End side of the project as opposed to the Bay Farm side, so would like to see a more detailed report. Director Chisaki will talk with Kozisek to see if she can provide a clearer picture.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion: Alameda Municipal Power Trenching Library Parking Lot (M. Hartigan)

Director Chisaki gave the Board an overview of how badly this project had gone, and what a huge inconvenience it had been for patrons and staff alike. President Hartigan said there had been no benefit to the Library at all, and we would have gotten an easement if we would have been a private business. Member Wetzork stated that he was appalled and disappointed at the lack of courtesy the Library had been shown. Hartigan wasn't sure what else could be said, but Member Atkin encouraged a very strong letter be written to Alameda Municipal Power relating the displeasure of the Board. Chisaki will draft something up for Hartigan to read/edit and sign as the President of the Board.

B. Alameda Free Library Foundation (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki related that the Alameda All Star Live @ the Library concert had been great, and that the Foundation had done a wonderful job. The next concert will be held on October 23 and will feature Euphonia. The Foundation continues to work on updating their website.

C. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (K. Minney)

Kevin Minney was in attendance as the new liaison for the Friends. He gave his background as a local businessman, and said that he had always been a very strong Library supporter. Minney encouraged everyone to attend the Friends Used Book Sale that weekend at the O-Club on Alameda Point.

D. Patron Suggestions/Comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's Response

There were no suggestions or comments.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the Board.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

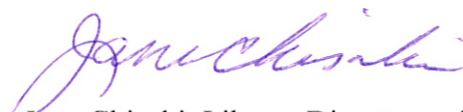
Director Chisaki said that the Library had been closed for staff development training on Monday which was Columbus Day. The topic was "Customer-Friendly Is More Than an Attitude" and attendance had been very good. The all-day training had been well-received by staff, and another staff development day is being planned for March 31 which is Cesar Chavez Day.

School Resource Services Liaison Linda Valler had hosted a "Teacher's Fiesta" after school hours at the Library. 17 teachers attended the event, and learned about the many services the Library has to offer. Valler will do follow-ups with the teachers to see what they thought.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, President Hartigan adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Chisaki, Library Director and
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board